



GENE AUTRY'S

Champion

IN
THE GHOST
OF
BLACK
MOUNTAIN

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NO. 267

52 pages
ALL COMICS!





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Champion THE WORLD'S WONDER HORSE

IN THE GHOST OF BLACK MOUNTAIN







THERE'S THE MAIN HERO!
NOW I'LL HAVE TO START
GUTTIN' FOR SIGN!



A LITTLE LATER.

HEMM. CATTLE TRACKS
LEADIN' UP THAT DRAH!
WE'LL HAVE A LOOKSEE!



GET ALONG, YOU
GRITTERS!



DRAH YOUR STUBBORN
HIDE! AFTER HIM, CHAMP!



ATTABOY, CHAMP!
THAT'S REALLY
HAZIN' HIM!



HA! HA! LOOK AT OLD
WRINKLE-HORN RUN!
RECKON HE DOESN'T
WANT YOU NIPPING
HIM AGAIN, CHAMP!





UNCLE SMOKY SAID IT WAS
MIGHTY ROUGH GOIN'...
BUT, GOSH! FIFTEEN
HEAD'N RE A LOT O' BEEF.



WHAT DO YOU FELLAS
SAY? SHALL WE
FOLLOW THOSE
TRACKS?

ARF! ARF!

WHOO... HEE...
HOO?



THAT'S WHAT I SAY,
TOO! LET'S GO!



REBEL! COME BACK HERE!
AFTER WE FIND THOSE
STRAYS, YOU CAN CHASE
ALL THE CHIPMUNKS
YOU WANT!



ARF!
ARF!

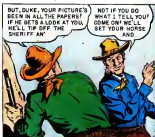


WHAT'S
THAT?

SOUNDS LIKE A DOG BARKIN'! AN'
HOOFBEATS! BUT IT COULDN'T BE,
DUKE! NOBODY EVER COMES
UP HERE!









... SO IT MIGHT BE A
GOOD IDEA TO TAKE
THAT HOMBRE'S
ADVICE....



HA' HA' LOOKS LIKE
HE FELL FOR THAT
TALL TALE A'RIGHT!



DUKE'S SURE ONE SMART
COOKIE! BUT THEN HE'D
HAF TA BE--- TO GET
WHERE HE'S GOT!

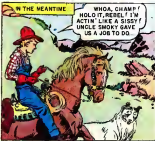


I'LL BET THERE AIN'T A COP
IN THE COUNTRY WHO WOULD
NOT LIKE TO GET HIS HANDS
ON DUKE CRANSTON!



IN THE MEANTIME

WHOA, CHAMP!
HOLD IT, REBEL! I'M
ACTIN' LIKE A SISSY!
UNCLE SMOKY GAVE
US A JOB TO DO.



AN' WE'RE GOIN' TO
DO IT---EVEN IF
THERE'RE A DOZEN
GHOSTS UP HERE!



WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY, TOO!
FROM THE LOOKS O' THOSE
THUNDERHEADS, WE'RE
LIABLE TO GET CAUGHT IN
A DOWN-FOUR!



BOSS! IT WORKED! THAT
KID'S SO SCARED, HE'S
PROBABLY HALFWAY TO
THE FLYIN'-A BY NOW!

YEAH!
THEN I MUST BE
SEEING THINGS!



AT THAT MOMENT

GREAT GUNS! THE KID!
WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?

MAKE ANOTHER
TRY TO GET RID
OF HIM, OF COURSE!



WE COULD DO IT EASY--- IF
YOU'D ONLY LET ME USE
'OLD RELIABLE'...

NO! NOT YET, ANY-
WAY! I'VE GOT
ANOTHER IDEA...
A SURE-FIRE ONE!



I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE THAT
KID TO THE GHOST OF BLACK
MOUNTAIN!



HOW IN BLAZES
ARE YOU GONNA
DO THAT?

COME ALONG! YOU CAN
SEE FOR YOURSELF! BRING
THE RIFLE... JUST IN
CASE! THIS STORM
WILL HELP!



SEE, FELLAS! IT'S SLOWIN' UP COLO!
GUESS THOSE CLOUDS ARE GETTIN'
READY TO CUT LOOSE!



ZOWIE! WE'D BETTER
FIND COVER PRONTO!



EASY, CHAMP!
THUNDER NEVER HURT
ANYBODY!



HERE COMES THE RAIN!
LET'S MAKE FOR THAT
OVERHANGIN' LEDGE!



STOP-
WHERE-YOU-
ARE!





AV-VOICE! WHERE'D IT
COME FROM? OR DID I--
I IMAGINE ...



WHISPER-EE-HEE?

SEE WHIZZ?
CHAMP AN' REBEL
ACT LIKE THEY
HEARD IT, TOO!
BUT WHO--

GA-GO-WELL!



I-AM THE GHOST-OF-BLACK-MOUNTAIN!
TURN-BACK-WHILE-THERE-IS-TIME-
RICKY-WEST!

(WOLF-H-HE KNOWS MY
M-NAME?) I--



LEAVE-THIS-MOUNTAIN-
BOY-- OR-YOU-WILL-
DIE!



AS THE VOICE
FADES AWAY...

GEE! THIS STORM'S
GETTIN' TO BE A
REGULAR GOOSE-
DROWNER! STEADY
CHAMP!



MOVE, FELLAS! WE CAN
DRY OFF UNDER THAT
LEDGE TILL I TRY TO
FIGURE THIS OUT!



I WONDER WHERE
THAT VOICE CAME FROM!
I DIDN'T SEE ANYBODY!



FUNNY, HIS KNOWIN'
MY NAME! BUT IF HE
IS A GHOST! AW,
SHUCKS! I'M LOCO-
THINKIN' CRAZY
THINGS LIKE
THAT!



ALL THE SAME, WHEN THE
RAIN LETS UP, WE'RE
MAKIN' TRACKS FOR
HOMEL



UNCLE SMOKY'S PLENTY SMART!
MAYBE HE CAN MAKE SENSE OUTA
THIS! I KNOW DARNED WELL I CAN'T!

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, BOSS! YOU SCARED THAT KID OUTA THREE YEARS' GROWTH!

I SCARED HIM? WHY, MATT, THAT WAS THE VOICE -- HA! HA! --OF THE GHOST OF BLACK MOUNTAIN!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

SHAKE A LEG, MATT! WE'VE A LOT OF WORK TO DO BEFORE THE BOYS GET HERE!

WHEN'RE THEY GUE?

ANY DAY, NOW! HEY! TAKE IT EASY WITH THAT ELEVATING DIAL! THAT'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS CHOPPER!

WHERE'RE YOU GONNA SET UP THESE BABIES?

ALONG THE RIDGE SO THEY'LL COVER ALL THE APPROACHES TO THIS HIDE-OUT!

HUMPH! WITH THE GUNS AN' AMMO YOU'VE LAID IN . . . AN' THE BOYS YOU'RE BRINGIN' OUT, THIS PLACE WILL BE MORE'N A HIDE-OUT! IT'LL BE A REGULAR FORT!

RIGHT! A FORT STRONG ENOUGH
TO HOLD OFF THE LAW--- EVEN
IF IT'S BACKED UP BY THE
UNITED STATES ARMY!



LATER, THAT EVENING...
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND,
RICKY?



UH, NOTHIN', UNCLE
SMOKEY! NOTHIN' AT
ALL!

HUMPH! I S'POSE IT'S
NATCHERAL FOR YOU TO PICK
AT YOUR SUPPER... AN' KEEP
STARIN' INTO SPACE... AN'
PUCKER UP YOUR FOREHEAD
WITH DEEP
THINKIN'...



BETTER SPILL IT
NOW! I'M A MIGHTY
PERSISTENT CUSS
WHEN MY CURIOSITY
IS BOILIN' UP!

BUT YOU WON'T
BELIEVE IT! IT'S
TOO--- TOO
IMPOSSIBLE!



S'POSIN' YOU LET ME BE
THE JUDGE O' THAT, SON!
START TALKIN'!



AMMM... AN MIGHTY STRANGE YARN, RICKY?
YOU COULDA IMAGINED IT--- AFTER WHAT
THAT RIDER SAID--- AN' WITH THE
THUNDER AN' ALL!

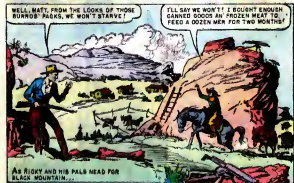
BUT WHAT ABOUT
CHAMPT AN' RECK?
THEY AOTED
AWFLY REGU-
LAR!



AFTER RICKY TELLS
HIS STORY...





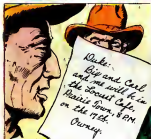


LIKE YOU SAID, I GOT ONE BURRO-LOAD IN CEDAR JUNCTION, ONE IN RAINBOW BEND, AN' FINISHED UP IN PRAIRIE TOWN ...



HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I GOT IN PRAIRIE TOWN! IT'S ADDRESSED TO ME, BUT WHEN I SAW THE NEW YORK POSTMARK ---

PIPE DOWN, AND HAND IT OVER!



IT'S FROM THE BOYS! THEY'LL BE HERE TONIGHT!

GOOD! I'M GETTIN' REAL ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT IF THEY'RE AS GOOD AS YOU SAY!



THEY ARE! THEY'RE THREE OF THE ROUGHEST, TOUGHEST MOOS OUTSIDE OF ALCATRAZ! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE GRANSTON MOB'LL BE RUNNING THIS PART OF THE WEST!



IT CAN'T BE TOO SOON FOR ME! WHERE'LL I STACK THE CANNED SOOOS?

ANYPLACE FOR NOW! HURRY UP AND I'LL HELP YOU GET THE FROZEN STUFF DOWN INTO THE CAVES BEFORE ---





IT IS A GAVE! I--
REBEL! COME BACK
HERE! STICK CLOSE
TO ME!



I'OBETTER GO ON FOOT!
THAT GAVE ROOF'S SO
LOW, I'D GONK MY HEAD
IF I STAYED ON YOUR
BACK, CHAMP!



GOLLY, IT'S SURE
DARK IN HERE!



A SLIVER OF LIGHT!
PROBABLY THE OPENIN'
TO THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE MOUNTAIN!



GEE WHIZZ, FELLAS!
THIS OLD MOUNTAIN'S
A REGULAR HONEYCOMB
OF GAVES!









THAT'S EASY! THERE'S
A LITTLE BANK OVER
AT CEDAR JUNCTION--

A GOOD IDEA!
AFTER WE GET THIS
GRUB STOWED AWAY,
WE'LL RIDE OVER
AND RELIEVE THEM
OF THEIR READY
CASH!



AT THAT MOMENT

CHAMP! REBEL!
LOOK! DAYLIGHT!



HURRAH FOR YOU, CHAMP! YOU
BROUGHT US THROUGH SAFELY!



IT SURE FEELS GOOD
TO STEP ON DRY
LAND AGAIN!



YOU'RE SOME HORSE, CHAMP!
WHEN YOU'VE RESTED A
BIT, WE'LL HEAD FOR
THE FLYIN' -AT!





BOSS! YOU BE
BACK SUPPER
TIME?

THAT ALL DEPENDS
ON WHAT I FIND UP
ON BLACK MOUNTAIN!



A LITTLE LATER...

IF ANYTHING'S
HAPPENED TO
THAT BOY...



NOW I KNOW WHERE WE
ARE! THAT'S-- GOLLY!
THAT RIDER! IT'S
UNCLE SMOKEY!



HE'S SURE RATTLIN' HIS
HOOKS!--- HEY! UNCLE
SMO--O--OKY!



HANG IT ALL! HE DIDN'T
HEAR ME!-- REBELS!
GO STOP HIM!





AN' THAT'S IT, UNCLE
SHOKY! PUZZLIN',
ISN'T IT?

RIGHT! I DON'T
SAVVY ANY OF IT!
WHY ANYBODY'D WANTA
KILL YOU...



AS RICKY FINISHES HIS EXCITING STORY...

MAYBE TO MAKE SURE I
WOULDN'T SHOW UP AT
BLACK MOUNTAIN
AGAIN!

COULD BE!
ANYWAYS, IT'S
A MATTER
FOR THE
LAW!



SO, AFTER YOU GET DUTA THOSE
WET DUDDS, WE'RE RIDIN' TO
RAINBOW BEND TO SEE
SHERIFF MELLISH!



SOME ONE-HORSE BURS!
TIPPING OVER THAT
JUS'LL BE A GINCH!

DON'T GET TOO GOKY,
DUDE! PLENTY O' FOLKS
AROUND HERE CUT THEIR
EYETEETH ON SIX-SUNS!



A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER IN CEDAR JUNCTION ...

THEN I MUST'VE BEEN
BORN WITH A ROD IN MY
FIST! COME ON! WHEN
WE GET TO THE DOOR,
PULL UP YOUR NECKER-
CHIEF AND GRAB!



OKAY! THIS
IS IT!

I'M ALL SET!







NOT THAT WAY, YOU FOOL!
SOUTH! LIKE WE
PLANNED!



CHARLIE! YOU LODO?
SHOOTIN' UP--

ROLL YORE OWN SUN,
SAM! THOSE RIDERS
JUST HELD UP THE BANK!



DOWIE! THAT WAS
A CLOSE ONE!



DIG IN YOUR SPURS! AND GET
CLEAR WITH THAT CASH!
I'LL COVER YOU!

QWWW! MY ARM!



SAM! ARE YOU
HURT BAD?



NO! ONLY CREASED!
HURRY! CALL THE
SHERIFF! TELL HIM
TO COME OVER HERE
ON THE DOUBLE!



HUMPH! NO SENSE IN
WAITIN' AROUND HERE.
RICKY! S'POSIN' WE
DRIFT OVER BLACK
MOUNTAIN WAY AN'--

AN' MAYBE YOU
CAN FIGURE OUT
WHAT'S GOOKIN'
UP THERE!



MAYBE! ONE THING'S
CERTAIN! WE'RE
STOPPIN' BY THE
HOUSE TO PICK UP
A FLASHLIGHT AN'
MY GUN!

I'LL PICK UP MY
CAMERA, TOO! THEN
IF WE MEET THE GHOST,
I'LL SNAP HIS PICTURE.



A SMART IDEA, SON! Y'KNOW,
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED
IF THAT SPOOK'S HAD HIS
PICTURE TOOK AFORE--
BY THE LAW!



WE HAVE TO GO ON
FOOT FROM HERE
ON, UNCLE
SMOKY!

SUITS ME!
LONG AS I
GO FIRST!



LATER...

THIS OLD-RATTED BROODTAIL'S
ACTIN' WORSE'N A MULE!
COME ALONG, YOU
CROCKHEAD!



YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE
UP, UNCLE SMOKY! BESIDES,
IF HE'S SKITTERY NOW,
HE'S LIMBLE TO ACT UP
WORSE ONCE WE'RE
INSIDE THE CAVE!





RECKON YOU'RE RIGHT, RICKY! I'LL HIDE HIM IN THESE TREES! CAN'T RISK THE 'SHOOT' SEEIN' HIM!



I'LL KEEP THIS SHOOTIN' IRON HANDY! GOT A HUNCH I'M GONNA BE NEEDIN' IT!



SEE WHIZZ! THIS FLASH-LIGHT DOESN'T HELP MUCH! I ---

RICKY! ISN'T THAT DAYLIGHT UP AHEAD?

CAUTIOUSLY, THE FOUR MAKE THEIR WAY INTO THE MOUNTAIN



YES! THAT'S WHERE WE WERE HEADED WHEN THE VOICE STOPPED US!

WELL, IT'S NOT STOPPIN' US NOW! LET'S SEE WHAT'S BEYOND THAT CRACK O' LIGHT!



RICKY? WHAT'S THAT RUSHIN' NOISE?

THE UNDER-GROUND RIVERS! LOOK!



JUMPIN' JENOSHOPHAT! IT'S A DOWNRIGHT MIRACLE YOU EVER GOT OUT ALIVE, SON!



YOU CAN SAY THAT--
UNCLE SHORTY!
LOOK OUT!



GOOPS!



SPLASH!



THAT SPLASH!--
RICKY??

I'M OKAY!
IT WAS YOUR
GUN! IT FELL
INTO THE
RAPIDS!



I SURE FEEL HELPLESS!
NO GUN! NO HOSS!

WE'VE STILL
GOT CHAMP AN'
REBEL! THEY
WILL COME
THROUGH IN
A PINCH!



GOSH! CABINS!
AN' A CORRAL!

YEAH! AN' LOOK AT
THAT CONTRAPTION!



WHY, IT'S A
MICROPHONE!
THAT EXPLAINS
THE SPOOKY
VOICE I
HEARD!

AN' IT PROVES THE
GHOST O' BLACK
MOUNTAIN'S
A SURE-ROUGH
HUMAN BEIN'!



DUKE! I'LL BET
THERE'S AT LEAST
TEN GRAND IN
THESE MONEY-
BAGS!

CHICKEN FEED!
WAIT TILL WE GET
ROLLING! WE'LL
END UP BEING
MILLIONAIRES!



WHY-WHY-- THEY'RE
THE BANK ROBBERS
THE SHERIFF --

YEAH! AN' THEY'LL
GUN US DOWN LIKE
THEY DID THAT
CASHIER IF THEY
SPOT US!



SON, WE'RE IN REAL
TROUBLE! WE'VE
GOT NO GUN! WE
CAN'T GET AWAY!

I'LL BET REBEL
COULD MAKE IT!
AN' BRING BACK
THE SHERIFF!



HOW IN SAM
HILL--

I'LL TAKE A PICTURE
OF THOSE MEN AN' THE
MONEYBAGS! I'LL
THE FILM TO REBEL'S
COLLAR! AN' SEND
HIM TO THE SHERIFF



SHERIFF MELLISH'LL KNOW
SOMETHIN'S WRONG WHEN
HE SEES REBEL AN' THE
FILM! SO HE'LL PROBABLY
DEVELOP THE PICTURES
RIGHT OFF...

AN' WHEN HE SPOTS
THOSE MONEYBAGS--

I SAVVY! HE'LL GET
REBEL TO LEAD HIM TO
US... BUT S'POSING REBEL
DON'T SAVVY WHAT YOU
TELL HIM?













AS DUKE AND MATT HEAD BACK FOR THE HIDE-OUT...





QUICK! LET'S GET OUTA
HERE AFORE HE COMES TO!
IF WE CAN GET TO THE CAVE...
UH! WHAT'S THAT?



IT'S REBEL! HE
WASN'T SHOT! HE'S
BROUGHT THE SHERIFF
AN' A POSSE!

MUSTA RUN INTO 'EM
ON THE TRAIL! BUT LOOK!
THOSE CROOKS HAVE
SPOTTED 'EM, TOO!



SEE? IT'LL BE A
MASSACRE! IF ONLY
WE COULD WARN THE
POSSE SOME WAY...

WE CAN! WITH THAT MIKE! I'LL HEAD
DOWN THERE! YOU AN' CHAMP WORK
UP THROUGH THE ROCKS— TILL
YOU'RE UP BEHIND THOSE CROOKS...

QUICK, MATT! THE
RIDGE SITS!



WHEN YOU HEAR ME WARRIN'
THE POSSE, JUMP CHAMP
DOWN AN' TRY TO PUSH
THAT SUN OVER THE
CLIFF!

OKAY! LET'S GO,
CHAMP! AN' BE REAL
QUIET! WE DON'T
WANT THOSE ROBBERS
TO GET WISE!



FULL UP, SHERIFF! THIS IS SMOKY
ASHTON! THE ROBBERS YOU'RE AFTER
HAVE GOT THAT TRAIL COVERED WITH
A MACHINE GUN!

A FEW TENSE MINUTES LATER...





Gene Autry and Champion with Little Champion

